

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

*Please replace the title with:*

Code Scrambling A Compression-Coded Signal

*Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 1 with:*

The leaf nodes 1-16 may be classified by rank. For example, leaf nodes 1-16 that are assigned the smaller number of encoded bits have higher rank than leaf nodes assigned a larger number of encoded bits. Thus, leaf node 1 has rank ~~6~~ 7 while leaf nodes 2 and 3 have rank 5. Assuming that the leaf nodes 1-16 in the tree 400 are assigned codes in an optimal way, any scrambling of the Huffman codes may only be performed among leaf nodes 1-16 of the same rank to maintain data compression efficiency of the Huffman code.